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96.00 Utility Accommodation  
96.50 Construction Requirements  
96.53 Special Provisions

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By: Director, Bureau of Highway Operations

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## A. Trenched Construction

Trenched construction and backfill shall provide for the:

1. Restoration of the structural integrity of the highway facility (see appendix 96.95),
2. Security of the facility against deformation likely to cause leakage,
3. Assurance against the trench entrapping excessive moisture or becoming a drainage channel, and
4. Assurance against highway drainage being blocked by the backfill.

When necessary, trenches for underground utility facilities shall be backfilled with pervious material and necessary outlets shall be provided to prevent entrapment of water. Underdrains shall also be provided where necessary.

The utility installation shall conform to the Department's applicable Standard Specifications for Highway and Structure Construction, current edition, for earthwork, culverts or other utility work within the right-of-way.

The Department may require that backfill and repaving be performed by county forces or under its direction at the expense of the utility.

## B. Untrenched Construction

Untrenched construction shall be required for all underground utility crossings of all highways that have a paved surface and are open to traffic unless specifically authorized in the permit.

Untrenched installation of utility facilities may be accomplished by tunneling, driving, coring and/or dry boring. Wet boring under the highway shall be prohibited unless specifically authorized in the permit.

Boring shall result in a close fit to the facility being installed. Untrenched construction shall, as a minimum, extend beneath the entire highway prism (from toe of inslope to toe of inslope or from back of curb to back of curb). Ground openings or pits for such work should be located outside of the clear zone and shall not interfere with highway drainage.

**B. Untrenched Construction (continued)**

When specifically authorized by the Department, the extent of the untrenched crossing may be reduced or eliminated where such construction methods are impractical or physically restricted by the terrain.

**C. Non-Metallic Lines**

Any non-metallic pipe, cable, or other kind of utility line which lacks a continuous and integral metallic component capable of detection by locating instruments shall be accompanied in its location by a continuous detectable metallic tracer wire or metallic tape.

**D. Casing**

Where crossings by underground lines are encased in protective conduit or duct, the encasement shall extend at least 600 mm (two feet) beyond the toe of slope or 900 mm (three feet) beyond the ditch line. On curbed sections, it shall extend at least outside the outer curbs.